

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 8. (canceled)

1 9. (new) An apparatus for applying a coating liquid to a
2 web moving in a travel direction, the apparatus comprising:

3 a hopper defining a distribution chamber extending
4 transversely of the direction, a flow face extending generally in
5 and transverse to the web-travel direction, a slot extending
6 between the chamber and the flow face and elongated transversely of
7 the direction;

8 means for supplying the coating liquid to the chamber,
9 thence through the slot to the flow face, and thence along the flow
10 face and for dropping the liquid as a transversely extending and
11 downwardly flowing curtain from an edge of the flow face onto the
12 web;

13 a pair of transversely spaced edge guides having upper
14 guide elements having transversely confronting faces and fittable
15 complementarily to the flow face, the upper guide elements lying in
16 a use position substantially directly on the flow face to limit
17 liquid flow to a region thereon defined between the transversely
18 confronting faces that hence define the width of the curtain; and

19 means for transversely positioning the edge guides and
20 thereby adjusting the curtain width.

1 10. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9
2 wherein each edge guide further comprises a lower guide having an
3 inner face aligned vertically with the face of the respective upper
4 guide, the lower guides being fixed to and transversely
5 displaceable with the respective upper guides.

1 11. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 10,
2 further comprising
3 means at lower ends of the lower guides for aspirating
4 the coating liquid.

1 12. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 10,
2 further comprising
3 means for releasably securing the lower guides to the
4 respective upper guides.

1 13. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 12
2 wherein the releasable securing means includes finger-operable
3 screws.

1 14. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9
2 wherein the flow-face edge is curved and fits with the upper guide
3 element.

1 15. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9
2 wherein the flow face inclines downward from the slot to the edge.

1 16. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9
2 wherein the hopper has a supply passage opening generally centrally
3 into the chamber, the supply means being connected via the passage
4 to the chamber.

1 17. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 16,
2 further comprising:
3 a pair of transversely spaced inserts each substantially
4 blocking the slot and the chamber; and
5 means for transversely displacing the inserts and thereby
6 setting a transverse width of the chamber and slot.

1 18. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 17,
2 further comprising
3 structure linking the inserts to the respective guides
4 for joint transverse displacement therewith, the inserts having
5 confronting inner faces aligned vertically with the faces of the
6 upper guides.

1 19. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 18
2 wherein the hopper includes end plates laterally flanking the
3 inserts and the chambers, the structure including rods passing
4 transversely through the end plates and having inner ends fixed to
5 the inserts.

1 20. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9,
2 further comprising
3 means for lifting the upper guides off the flow face
4 during transverse displacement of the upper guides.